

Regular Meeting
Weston Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee
Wednesday September 9, 2015, 12:30
Community Room 1, Library

Attendance: Carolyn Arnold, Carolyne Hynes, Ray Rauth Walter Shanley, Julie Sidhu
Meeting commenced 12:37p.m.

1.0 Opening

1.1 Chair's remarks- Ray Rauth welcomed Walter Shanley to the meeting and opted to incorporate any other remarks into subjects at hand as discussed.

2.0 Special Topic

2.1 Recruiting new committee members: Not much has been done to actively recruit new members outside of collecting emails and inviting folks to join us as we meet them at our Weston Walks Events. It was decided a more active social media approach was the way to go. Julie noted that Catherine Revson, who has expressed interest in our group, is media savvy and has been instrumental in bringing several groups together around Weston (*In the following 12 hours since the meeting, Catherine has in fact started a Facebook page whereby community volunteers can offer their help, search for positions and community groups can request help. Julie will post a notice to this new site over the weekend.*) We will also continue to collect emails.

3.0 Events & Related

3.1 **2015 Hike/Bike Program:** We have had a successful spring/summer hiking season, but still need to build on the bike part. Upcoming hikes for the fall are:

: Popp Mountain hike. We meet at 10:00 AM at Trout Brook at the Bradley Road Parking lot. This is, by some estimates, the **Thursday, September 24th** toughest climb in Weston. The view from the top looks over the reservoir from the dam to the far reaches of the reservoir in Redding. Hike Leader Ray Rauth or members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.

Tuesday, October 20th: Bisceglie Autumn Hike. Catch the autumn leaves at their best. It's a short easy walk of about a mile. We finish at the old Post Office. Hike leaders, members of the Bike Ped Committee.

Saturday, October 24th: Reservoir Rambler

Saturday, November 7th: Great Ledge Hike. The hike leaves from the Conservancy parking lot on Pent Road and takes the long loop to the magnificent views at the Great Ledge in the Den. It's about 8 miles so bring snacks and water. Dr. Tom Failla leads this spectacular outing.
Saturday, November 14th: Great Ledge Hike rain date. See above.

3.11 Schedule

Reservoir Rambler 10/24 : –This new hike explores the water resources available to Weston and neighboring towns. It's in concert with the Reservoir Run held the next day. The time will be 9:30 AM. Further details are pending finalization by the Bike Ped Committee & The Nature Conservancy. Watch the Forum for those details. Julie and Ray will meet with Cynthia Foyx to discuss meeting point/parking and publicity.

3.13 Bike Rides – Julie Sidhu and Carolyn Hynes plan to offer a spring bike ride on the Trumbull Rail Trail.

3.2 Trail-related issues

3.21 Upper Weston Link Trail – Progress. Ray, Julie and Cynthia hiked across the various land parcels that link Georgetown and thus ultimately the NRV, Honey Hill, Fromson- Strassler property to Devil's Den. Forging a trail across the various parcels, Meadow Ridge, Ever Source, Redding Land Trust, Nevas property, Weston and Devil's Den is possible, but requires a commitment from all groups. Aspetuck Land Trust is very interested in linking all of these various open spaces. A meeting with several, if not all parties, is the next step.

3.22 Connections – Pathfinder Road & Open Space links – Goat Trails: We will continue to look out for lanes and cut through that link various neighborhood roads.

4.0 Roads

4.1 Lyons Plains Road: A letter has been received from Nancy Rossett of Sound Cyclist bicycle Club regarding the free "3 FEET" signs in Weston. SCBC is actively working with Greenwich and New Canaan. Towns that have already accepted and placed signs are: Bethel (14), Brookfield (20) Fairfield (10) Newtown (32), Norwalk (25) and Westport (3) Discussion regarding the next step acknowledged that permission had to be gained from the Police Commission. Laws allow for additional approved road signs on the poles of existing signs. Earlier discussions with Joe Lametta, Director of Public Works, Ray and Julie identified Lyons Plains as a road in need of these signs. Julie will talk to Joe to see if we need any other approvals before proceeding to the Police Commission.

4.2 Weston Walks /Walks Weston: Weston Walks has enjoyed several well received summer hikes. Our latest, on the new section of the Norwalk Valley River Trail (NVRT) was particularly enjoyable. We will continue to work towards offering walks for all abilities and advise as requested.

Cub Scout Hike: Ray was approached to help organize and lead a cub scout hike. No date set as yet. Route also to be determined. Ray will connect with Jennifer Roh. Julie offered to do a preview walk with scout leader if requested in order to tie hike in with scout activities.

Weston (ite) Walks Weston: Our fearless leader, Ray Rauth is on his way to completing a walk through all of the streets in Weston. Much media attention has been forthcoming and he has been invited to take part in an interactive media/video recording as a continuation of his interview with the Weston Forum. Please note the Weston Forum has been very supportive of all of our bicycle /pedestrian efforts since the formation of this committee. Julie has also begun the quest and is up to 52 roads. We need to confirm the number of public roads recently added to the town and also plan a town wide challenge. It was decided to put out some fliers during the Reservoir hike/Weston Half Marathon Weekend and plan a spring launch of the 2016 Weston Walks Weston Challenge.

Meeting adjourned 2:05p.m. Next Meeting TBD given it falls on 11/11